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## CONTENTS

|                                       | <i>Page</i> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Platinized Asbestos - - - - -         | 2           |
| Uses of Haveg - - - - -               | 10          |
| "Durasteel" - - - - -                 | 12          |
| Asbestos 5000 Years Hence - - - - -   | 15          |
| New Asbestos Discovery - - - - -      | 16          |
| Aiding Oil Storage - - - - -          | 18          |
| New Movie Uses for Asbestos - - - - - | 22          |
| Market Conditions - - - - -           | 23          |
| Current Range of Price - - - - -      | 25          |
| R. H. Chase - - - - -                 | 26          |
| Contractors and Distributors Page     |             |
| Ideas for Advertising - - - - -       | 27          |
| Building - - - - -                    | 28          |
| Production Statistics - - - - -       | 29          |
| Imports and Exports - - - - -         | 30          |
| Asbestos Stock Quotations - - - - -   | 33          |
| "Conditioning" Customers - - - - -    | 34          |
| News of the Industry - - - - -        | 35          |
| Patents - - - - -                     | 38          |
| Automobile Production - - - - -       | 38          |
| This and That - - - - -               | 39          |

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Page 1

## PLATINIZED ASBESTOS

By M. E. Lerner

Altho some reference has been made in the technical literature to platinized asbestos, little general knowledge of this material is available, even in the asbestos industry itself. Platinized asbestos is sometimes referred to as palladized asbestos. This article will attempt to make clear what the material is, what it does, and to what uses it is being put.

Briefly, platinized asbestos consists of asbestos fibre which has been sprayed with a solution of platinum salt. The platinum is subsequently reduced to yield a catalytically active material. It is primarily used as a catalyst to promote various chemical reactions, which otherwise would not occur, at a useful rate at the temperatures employed. (A catalyst is the chemical term for an ingredient which acts as an accelerator of a reaction.)

Platinized asbestos is used to remove traces of oxygen in hydrogen or hydrogen in oxygen, by passing the gas over the heated catalyst, which causes the impurity to react with the principal gas, forming water, which is subsequently removed. This action is explained in detail further on in the article.

Oxidation of various hydrocarbons can be effected at low temperature on platinized asbestos and advantage of this phenomena has been taken in various small hand warmers and heaters which are popular in foreign countries, particularly in the Far East. These warmers and heaters generally incorporate a small wad of catalysts supported above a benzine-saturated cotton-filled container. The benzine vapor from the cotton mingles with the air and combines or "burns" without a flame on the platinized asbestos, furnishing the desired heat.

By far the most important use of platinized asbestos, however, both in this country and abroad, is in the manufacture of sulfuric acid. Its value lies in catalyzing the

oxidation of sulfur dioxide to sulfur trioxide. Experience has indicated that the variety of asbestos preferred for manufacturing platinized asbestos is the long-fibred mineral chrysotile which is mined principally in the Province of Quebec, Canada. It has been stated that whereas long-fibred platinized asbestos will endure for from 12 to 15 years, short-fibred masses will not stand up for 10 years.

Altho processes for preparing platinized asbestos intended for use in sulfuric acid manufacture are carefully guarded company secrets, one general method is in use, according to A. M. Fairlie, noted consulting technologist, indicated by the following steps:

1. A solution of sodium carbonate is prepared in the proportion of  $\frac{3}{8}$ ths of a pound of the base to 40 litres of distilled water;
2. This solution is heated to vigorous boiling and thoroly purified asbestos fibres are introduced;
3. One pound of sodium acetate (which is previously dissolved in a small amount of water) is added and the solution again brought to a boil;
4. The asbestos is then removed from the solution and, after drying, is immersed in a solution of platinum chloride of sufficient quantity and concentration to produce the desired percentage of platinum in the finished mass (usually about 6 to 10%).
5. After removing the asbestos from the bath it is allowed to drain and is then dried and fluffed by hand to expose the greatest possible surface area.

Platinized asbestos is extremely fragile and must be handled with extra care. For its use in sulfuric acid manufacture it is generally cut into layers from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch thickness. Sulfuric acid is produced by means of converter systems of which there are a number in use. One of these is the Badische system, developed in Germany more than two decades ago. Originally, the Badische converter consisted of a cluster of parallel tubes containing small wads of platinized asbestos, each wad kept apart by metal spacers to prevent compacting. This device was equipped with gas jets for external heating. This system was later changed (particularly when adopted by American manu-

## "ASBESTOS"

facturers of sulfuric acid) to a large cylindrical steel shell containing numerous horizontal perforated cast iron shelves, spaced about one inch apart, and supported by pins attached to the lower surface of the plates. This system makes use of the platinized asbestos layers formed as above described. The layers are made from what has come to be called "ordinary" platinized asbestos.

Soon after platinized asbestos became important to the manufacture of sulfuric acid in this country, a group of American technologists began research designed to produce a grade of platinized asbestos of greater efficiency than that already available. This research led to the development of a new process which embraces the use of a converter system so designed that as the activity of the mass gradually decreases, additional platinized asbestos may be conveniently introduced. Heretofore, principally in the Badische system, when new layers of platinized asbestos were required, the converter had to be taken apart. The new system made possible the feeding of new platinized asbestos to act as catalyst in the converter without disrupting the working of the converter itself.

The platinized asbestos which resulted from this research was found to have a kindling or ignition temperature rated at 330° C. for brimstone gas. It therefore became known as "low-ignition" platinized asbestos. Because of this low-ignition feature, a much smaller quantity of this type of platinized asbestos is required per unit of sulfuric acid than of other types.

Importance of low ignition platinized asbestos may be realized from the following: One of the chief hindrances to the effective oxidation of sulfur dioxide is the high temperature developed by the heat of the reaction. The higher the temperature in the converter, the more platinum is required for effective conversion—and vice versa. A low ignition temperature avoids excessive temperatures within the converter (used in sulfuric acid manufacture) and therefore smaller quantities of platinum are required. Asbestos insulation engineers will appreciate this point.

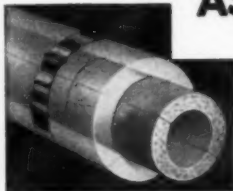
Several gases are used in the manufacture of sulfuric acid. These gases sometimes result in the platinized asbes-

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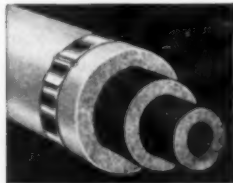
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tos layers becoming temporarily "poisoned", in which state they lose their efficiency. When "poisoning" occurs (generally due to contamination by arsenic) the catalysts may be replaced with fresh platinized asbestos layers. The removed layers, however, may be treated with acids for the recovery of the platinum.

A method for washing the platinized asbestos without removal from the converters is also available. This method is protected by U. S. Patent No. 1,429,222, owned by the General Chemical Company. This washing is effected by means of a drainage system which leaves the platinized asbestos in the converters and filling the latter with ordinary water, later introducing warm water, and then passing hot air thru the converters after the water has drained. After the contact material has thoroly dried, the converters are ready to resume operation. This procedure is said to be not only practical but also improves the activity of the "poisoned" platinized asbestos.

Up to this point only layers of platinized asbestos have been mentioned. In the Mannheim system, however, another process for manufacturing sulfuric acid, platinized asbestos mats are used. In this system 10 to 13 mats, each supported by a sheet of wire netting and with wire netting between, are built up in superposed layers to form an "element". The mats are made of  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch asbestos rope loosely woven with strands  $\frac{1}{8}$ th of an inch apart, and measure 3 to 4 inches larger in each horizontal direction from the frames they are to rest in, to avoid shrinkage. As a general rule, from 20 to 25 grams of platinum are deposited on each platinized asbestos mat.

A process has also been devised for "reviving" these platinized asbestos mats. After removal from the frame, the mats are immersed in a 5% hydrochloric acid solution for approximately 6 hours at a temperature of 60° C., followed by two washings in hot water. After this they are drained, sprayed and dried and then reassembled into "elements" again. Altho the mats can stand several such "revivification" treatments, some platinum is lost and the asbestos fibre becomes weaker after each treatment.

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introduction of platinized asbestos the required weight of platinum in the average asbestos mass (per daily ton of sulfuric acid manufactured in this country) has been gradually diminished, an economy factor especially important to the user of platinized asbestos. Whereas in 1918 approximately 13 troy ounces of platinum were required, only between 5.5 and 7 troy ounces are now required.

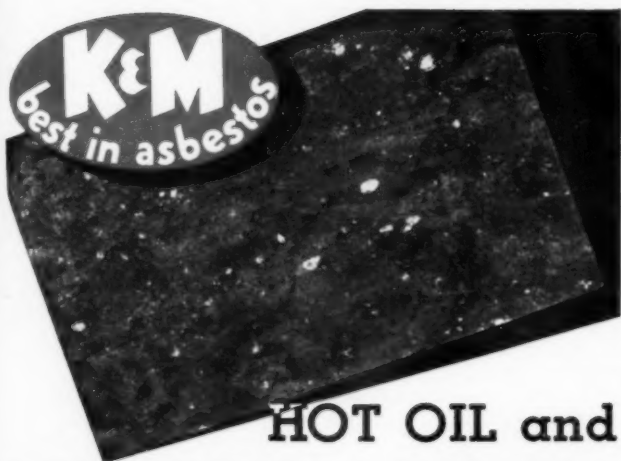
The cost of platinizing asbestos (with brimstone gas) per ton of 100% sulfuric acid is estimated to be 90 cents, which compares with costs of 97 cents and \$1.32 for platinizing magnesium sulfate and silica gel, respectively, two materials used as catalysts in sulfuric acid manufacture. These are production costs and do not involve the cost of the platinum. The cost of manufacturing low-ignition platinized asbestos (including the platinum) is variously figured between \$150 and \$200 per daily ton of 100% sulfuric acid, depending on the market cost of platinum, currently between \$40 and \$50 per ounce. Approximately 3 ounces of platinum are necessary to a daily ton of sulfuric acid.

The importance of platinized asbestos from the asbestos manufacturers' viewpoint from the angle of asbestos consumption may be realized from two factors, first that as many as 100 layers of platinized asbestos are initially installed in most converter plants for the manufacture of sulfuric acid (depending on the system used) and that these layers are often replaced with fresh layers, and second that the amount of sulfuric acid produced at contact plants in the United States alone rose from 1,102,567 short tons in 1921 to more than double in 1931 when 2,446,963 short tons were produced. The more sulfuric acid produced the more platinized asbestos is consumed.

The additional use of platinized asbestos in the warmers and heaters mentioned earlier in the article, as well as a few other uses, must also be taken into consideration. The unusual properties exhibited by platinized asbestos indicate that when the material is more widely known new uses in other spheres of industry will undoubtedly be discovered.

Altho processes for manufacturing platinized asbestos are carefully guarded, as previously mentioned, there

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September 1938

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are two fields of thought in its preparation and use. Some engineers familiar with the material claim that it is in the best interests of the user to make his own masses because of the preciseness necessary for its production, especially when large amounts are used. Others claim uniform platinized asbestos may be safely purchased from the few commercial sources available. In this country platinized asbestos suitable for use in the small warmers and heaters described is produced by Baker & Company of Newark, N. J., while platinized asbestos suitable for sulfuric acid manufacturing processes is made by the Sirdevan Chemical Engineering Co., Inc., of Springfield, Ill. The International Nickel Company, with headquarters in New York City, and laboratories at Bayonne, N. J., producers of platinum, have long carried on experiments for uniform platinized asbestos.

Author's note: Appreciation is extended to E. M. Wise, Assistant Manager of the Research Laboratory of the International Nickel Co., and to A. M. Fairlie, Consulting Engineer, author of "Sulfuric Acid Manufacture", published by the Reinhold Publishing Co. of New York City. Asbestos principals interested in the subject of platinized asbestos would do well to read Mr. Fairlie's book, from which some of this material has been taken.

## USES OF HAVEG

Readers of "ASBESTOS" are familiar with Haveg, the phenol plastic-asbestos material made by Haveg Corp., East Newark, Del., described in a previous issue.

A wide variety of products has been made of this material in the short time it has been on the market. These products include pipes and fittings, pickling tanks, acid dippers, acid-proof kettles, valves, fume ducts and so on.

The properties of Haveg, based on its construction from acid-washed asbestos fibres and synthetic phenol formaldehyde resin, lend themselves to resistance to acid and salt, chlorine, solvents and to weaker bases. Each new product made of the material means a wider use of asbestos.

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## "DURASTEEL"

Steel and Asbestos in combination  
are tested for Bomb Resistance.

By *Geoffrey Blackall*

A new building material known as "Durasteel"<sup>1</sup>, a combination of steel and asbestos, was recently subjected to severe tests at Greenford, England, in the presence of War Office representatives and authorities concerned with air raid precautions.

The experts who witnessed the demonstration were favorably impressed by the results. An afternoon spent among loud explosions, flying projectiles, and inextinguishable Thermit fires proved to them that Durasteel is far more effective than brick or steel walls in resisting attack. Projectiles were fired from mortars into built-up sections or panels, some made of ordinary building materials and others of Durasteel products.

The first tests demonstrated the resistance of roofs of different types to incendiary bombs. The charge used had been calculated to give the maximum penetration of which the 1-kilogram type of incendiary bomb is capable.

The first section represented an unprotected roof of slate and lath and plaster, with floor boarding behind. As the test showed, a 1-kilo bomb dropped on such a roof would burst on the floor of the top story and start a fire.

In the second test a similar roof was protected by Durasteel fire protection panels and impact-absorbing sheeting. In this case the test was not entirely successful; the projectile passed thru not only the first protective layer but the second, which should have stopped it, so allowing the bomb (had it been a real one) to burn out harmlessly.

In the third test Durasteel corrugated sheet was used instead of slates, and the building was protected against fire as before. The corrugated material did not shatter;

<sup>1</sup> Made by Durasteel Roofs, Ltd., Oldfield Lane, Greenford, England.

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the projectile was turned aside after breaking it.

Durasteel composite splinterproof shutters were next subjected to successive shots from any army rifle, to represent machine gun fire, at a range of less than 15 yards. All the bullets came to rest inside the shutters without even denting the rear sheets, whereas a block of wood 12 inches thick was penetrated at the same range.

Even more striking was the effect of firing eight pounds of steel nuts and bolts from a mortar at the same shutters at very close range. A charge of blasting powder sufficient to penetrate a 9-inch wall merely embedded the nuts and bolts in the front panel. Still heavier charges were used to fire 10 lb. steel projectiles, first into a Durasteel composite construction, 6 inches thick, and then at a 14-inch brick wall. The brick wall was shattered, but the Durasteel stopped the missile between the front sheet and the rear sheet, the latter being only bulged.

When two pounds of Thermit was ignited on top of mild steel plate  $\frac{3}{16}$  in. thick, it melted its way thru, in seven or eight seconds and fell to the ground, still burning. The same quantity of Thermit burned itself out on a  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. panel of Durasteel, without the underside of the sheet becoming too hot to touch.

Another Durasteel panel was successfully submitted for an hour to the impact of the flame of an oil furnace, at a temperature of 2,200 degrees F. To afford the spectators an added touch of realism they stood inside one of the factory out-buildings, which had been fitted with a false ceiling of Durasteel, while three pounds of Thermit burned quite innocuously on the ceiling above them.

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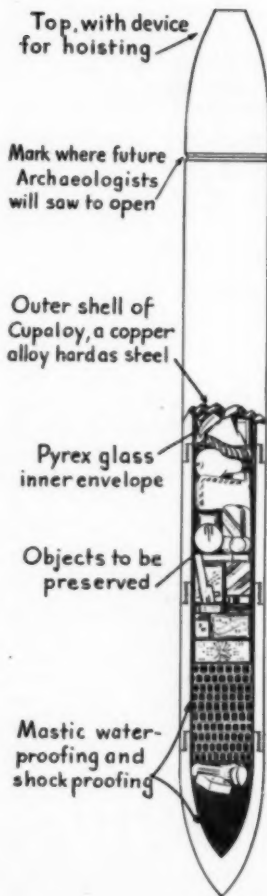
**Oscar H. Ritter — K.G.**

**Hamburg**

**· — ·**

**Alsterdamm 7**

## ASBESTOS 5000 YEARS HENCE



So far as we can learn, no one has attempted to say how long asbestos has actually been in existence, but it is thought, and stated, by geological experts, that asbestos was first formed when the earth's crust began to cool. "Countless centuries" or "since prehistoric times" are the terms generally used when referring to the long life asbestos had before being discovered, or recognized as useful, by man.

It would therefore seem quite fitting that the 5000-year Time Capsule, being prepared by the Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Company of East Pittsburgh, Pa., for deposit on the grounds of the New York World's Fair 1939, should contain something concerning asbestos. Asbestos is very probably one of the few materials used today which was in the world 5000 years ago; it may be that it will be on the earth 5000 years hence, provided the earth is not destroyed (according to Biblical warning) before 5000 more years have elapsed.

Will not one of the larger asbestos firms, or several

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of them co-operatively, suggest to the Westinghouse Company, the inclusion of a specimen of Crude Asbestos and of some asbestos material (preferably pure asbestos cloth we should think) in this Time Capsule. We understand that the time of deposit of the capsule is still indefinite because the company is appealing to scientists, historians and the public for suggestions as to the capsule's contents, but it is planned that the deposit of the capsule will be made early in October.

If desired, "ASBESTOS" will gladly act for the Industry, under the Industry's direction, in forwarding to the Westinghouse Company, the suggestion that asbestos in some form be included in the capsule, after the Asbestos Industry has decided the form which the suggestion should take and how and by whom the specimens should be prepared.

We urge heads of Asbestos Laboratories (who are most likely to be interested in this subject) to give earnest thought to this suggestion and in turn urge their respective companies to act—and quickly—to the end that the Asbestos Industry be represented in this unique movement for leaving to future generations, information concerning the present status of the world's civilization.

## NEW ASBESTOS DISCOVERY

A new deposit of Asbestos is reported as having been discovered on islands in the Lake of the Woods, about 22 miles from Kenora, Canada. According to the report of this find in U. S. Minerals Circular No. 17 of August 29, the fibres are said to "average from 6 to 8 inches with occasional fibres running up to 3 feet". A syndicate has been formed to develop the property and includes two prospectors, a retired railroad official, J. M. McKay, George W. Van Vliet and the attorney, E. A. Fletcher at 806 Lindsay Bldg., Winnipeg.

We have written for further information and samples and will publish in a later issue such data as is received.

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## AIDING OIL STORAGE

By F. R. Cozzens.

When the cost of producing a commodity exceeds the selling price, the general advisement is to curtail production of that particular item. This is the condition faced by the Petroleum industry today, but unfortunately an oil producer cannot curtail production without serious consequences. His only safe recourse is to pump the oil to the surface, then store the product in huge tanks until market conditions justify its sale. This can, and is being done on thousands of leases, but with the storage of oil, the producer's problems have only begun.

Crude oil in storage has an average evaporation rate of eight barrels per one thousand barrels, every twenty-four hours. Its gravity test will fluctuate from 3 to 5 points, within a period of six months. And, lastly, the continuous formation of paraffin and sludge will cause an average depreciation of 3% over the course of a year. How these obstacles are being met and overcome is an outstanding achievement of mining engineers, and especially interesting is the part played by asbestos in making this achievement possible.

Oil is stored in steel tanks, 8 and 10 feet in height, with capacity ranging from 100 to 300 barrels. Ten or more such tanks are necessary on the average lease, and they are usually spaced twenty five feet apart. Around each tank is thrown up a circular mound of earth about four feet in height, known as a retainer wall, and while this work is being done, workers are insulating the tank. The outside surface having been cleaned, the entire tank is heavily coated with a mixture of asbestos short fibre and tar. This is known and sold commercially as asbestos roofing cement. Before the cement is thoroly dry, an air-pressure pump is brought on the job, and lime dust is blown against the surface until the cement is thoroly impregnated. Workers complete the job by smoothing the surface with trowels. The result is a resilient insulation, about one-half inch in thick-

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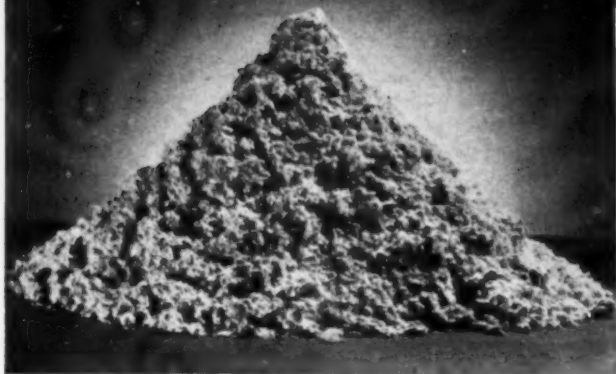
ness, which prevents sudden atmospheric changes, and entirely eliminates the gathering of moisture on the walls of the tank. Tanks thus treated have an evaporation rate of less than four barrels per one thousand barrels of oil in twenty-four hours, which means an average storage saving of four barrels of oil per day.

To eliminate the sharp fluctuations in gravity of stored oil, the modern producer circulates natural gas thru the fluid. Gas under pressure is forced thru a valve in the bottom of the tank and collected thru a secondary line as it reaches the top. Here again, asbestos comes into the picture in a very important manner. A friction spark during this procedure is almost certain to cause fire and explosion, so as a primary precaution, a filter made of asbestos yarn is tied over the mouth of the pressure valve. A similar filter is also fastened over the inserted end of the collecting pipe, and in addition, all connections within a distance of three feet of the tank are immersed in a solution of asbestos paint before any gas pressure is applied. This protection retards heat and makes ignition practically impossible.

In clearing sludge, flotsam, and slime from stored oil, asbestos does an unusual duty. Anyone who has happened to drag a bit of asbestos cloth thru water will observe that it catches and retains more residue than any other kind of material of like size. The same principle applies in oil, except that the operator uses a mat of asbestos fibre which is attached to a length of pipe in form of a mop. With this device, the contents of a tank are thoroly stirred at least once a month. The mop is cleaned by drawing it to the surface, squeezing it dry of oil, then shaking off the residue. Five to ten pounds of filth are commonly taken from a tank at a single stirring. This cleaning process is often supplemented by placing screens of loose mesh asbestos cloth over openings of oil lines leading into the tank. Many of the larger oil companies are going a step farther in cleaning crude petroleum by eliminating ice and chilled oil thru the use of anti-sweat pipe coverings, and various other forms of underground asbestos insulation. In all oil fields, asbestos valve packings, gaskets, asbestos-rubber-

"ASBESTOS"

## VERMONT ASBESTOS



**MINED IN THE U. S. A.**

•  
**C**LEAN, well fiberized asbestos particularly well suited for the manufacture of the better types of:

**BRAKE LINING**

**BOILER COVERINGS**

**CLUTCH FACING**

**MILLBOARD**

**ROOFING PAINTS**

**MOULDED PRODUCTS**

**SHINGLES**

**ASBESTOS PAPER**

•  
*Samples and Prices upon application*

## VERMONT ASBESTOS MINES

•  
Division of The RUBEROID Co.

**HYDE PARK, VERMONT**

**Sales Office, 500 Fifth Ave., New York City • Mine, Eden, Vt.**

## "ASBESTOS"

ized tape, wire insulation, etc., are standard equipment.

In the process of storing oil, the use of materials made of asbestos means an average cash saving of \$9.00 per hundred barrels in the course of a year. Considering the fact that oil storage on leases is rated in thousands of barrels, this saving is enabling scores of producers to retain an income which would otherwise be lost.

## NEW MOVIE USES FOR ASBESTOS

Our ingenious film makers have recently found a new way to apply asbestos to the solution of their manifold production problems.

Hollywood's fashion stylists are now confecting apparel of asbestos cloth for certain scenes. Where industrial operations are being portrayed or, more often, at railroad station "sets" where characters are likely to come in contact with escaping steam from the locomotive, the use of asbestos is indicated. Invariably asbestos is specified for the clothing of persons to be caught in conflagration episodes.

That such garments may be very becoming to the wearers is demonstrated in a photoplay now being shown throughout the country — "Alexander's Ragtime Band". In the so-called "Devil Dance" number, a troupe of pretty chorines disappear into a cloud of smoke at the finale.

To properly produce swirling vapor, studio technicians used a ton of dry ice, because the steam from this material photographs more dramatically than real steam. Twelve of Hollywood's most beautiful girls would suffer severe burns from the corrosive chemical, but for the protection afforded by their costumes of asbestos cloth.

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The world's great men have not commonly been great scholars, nor its great scholars great men.

—*Oliver Wendell Holmes*

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The hardest elements to find are open-mindedness that will permit a change from established routine, and practical-mindedness known as horse-sense.—*Rays of Sunshine.*

## MARKET CONDITIONS

### GENERAL BUSINESS

While business has slackened during the past month, this according to general opinion is caused by the summer season, and vacations as much as by any real slowing down of industrial activity.

Quoting from various sources we find such statements as these:

"Sales of asphalt and asbestos building materials currently are running above a year ago in response to spurt in residential building. Industry expects steady uptrend in volume for rest of year assuring second half profits above 1937 period" — Wall Street Journal.

"With \$800,000,000 being rapidly used up for loans for construction of homes and apartment dwellings, the Federal Housing Administration predicts this year's residential building volume will be the greatest since 1931. Each month's activity has shown an increase over the preceding one's since March of this year".—Barron's.

"Factory employment is rising, and industrial workers will be able to buy more farm products and pay more for them. . . . Among industrial reports in August, the continuing uptrend in steel mill operations from 37% of capacity in the last week of July to 43% at the end of August, is the most favorable. The rise, which is more than seasonal, establishes operations at the highest rate since last November, and without much help in the way of advance buying from the automobile manufacturers".—National City Bank Letter for September.

Quoting further from the last named source we find that they sum up the general situation as follows:

"The commodity and security markets have quieted down during August, as compared with late June and July. However, sentiment was well prepared for the slackening, since the rise had been greater than expected; and the better feeling which spread over business while the markets were advancing has not been seriously disturbed. Buyers of industrial materials have stepped back to the

## "ASBESTOS"

sidelines, not because they have suddenly turned pessimists, but because their purchases in June and July covered requirements for some time ahead. The slowing down is welcome, for the speculative markets were moving faster than business improvement could possibly go; and if pushed too far there would be danger of a demoralizing reaction.

"Compared with two or three months back the industrial situation has been strengthened substantially. The spurt in the markets gave the metal and textile industries, in particular, more orders to work on, reduced their unsold stocks, and enabled them to raise operations to the best rate in many months. These are the most conspicuous gains but other industries also have begun to move forward moderately and the tendency of improvement to spread from one area to another brightens the outlook for all".

### ASBESTOS - RAW MATERIAL

The demand for Shingle Fibre from all sources is excellent. The demand for Crudes is very good.

Shipments of Spinning Fibres and Shorts to the United States are still off but there are indications of improvement.

Prices are firm on all grades with the exception of South African Blue which is not as firm as it was in early spring.

### ASBESTOS - MANUFACTURED GOODS

*Textiles.* Very little, if any, change in the situation on Asbestos Textiles since August. Nothing like normal volume of these products is being purchased, with little indication of early increase. Fortunately however, prices in many items remain fairly firm, altho in others there is a tendency toward lower prices, probably due to lack of volume.

*Insulation. High Pressure.* The market for this line continues to show improvement. Altho increase in volume thus far has been slight, the trend seems to point higher. Prices are firm.

*Insulation. Low Pressure.* Demand in this division of the Industry is somewhat better than it has been, prob-

## "ASBESTOS"

ably due to the beginning of the heating season which, by the way, is unusually late in starting. Prices are fair.

*Paper and Millboard.* The markets in both these commodities show fair demand with prices steady.

*Asbestos-Cement Products.* One of our correspondents reports that the situation in this market shows little change from last month. Another reports some slight betterment in sales of Asbestos-Cement Products to industry, as well as some increase over last month in the sale of Asbestos-Cement Siding and Roofing.

The above are comments from men closely in touch with the various asbestos markets. Opinions and comments are welcome from all our readers and will be published.

## CURRENT RANGE OF PRICE

on Canadian Crudes and Fibres

|  | Per ton (2000 lbs.)<br>f. o. b. Mine |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Group No. 1 (Crude No. 1) .....  | \$700.00 to \$750.00                 |
| Group No. 2 (Crude No. 2; Crude<br>Run-of-Mine and Sundry <sup>1</sup> ) ..... | 150.00 to 350.00                     |
| Group No. 3 (Spinning or Textile Fibre) .....                                  | 110.00 to 200.00                     |
| Group No. 4 (Shingle Fibre) .....  | 57.00 to 76.50                       |
| Group No. 5 (Paper Fibre) .....  | 40.00 to 45.00                       |
| Group No. 6 (Waste, Stucco or Plaster) .....                                   | 30.00                                |
| Group No. 7 (Refuse or Shorts) .....   | 12.00 to 25.00                       |

<sup>1</sup> Crude Run-of-Mine refers to a crude asbestos produced in certain mines where Crude Fibre is not graded into regular No. 1 and No. 2 Crude. Crudes Sundry refers to certain odd lots of off grade material which do not conform to the regular standards of No. 1 Crude or No. 2 Crude.

# RAW ASBESTOS<sup>\*</sup>

## N. V. NEDERLANDSCHE ASBEST MY

P. O. BOX 803

ROTTERDAM (Holland)

*Stocks at*

Hamburg

Rotterdam

## R. H. CHASE--

### Elected Vice President of Plant Rubber & Asbestos Works



*R. H. Chase,  
Vice President*

Election of Reuben H. Chase, General Manager of Plant Rubber & Asbestos Works, as Vice President and General Manager of the firm, has just been announced.

Mr. Chase has been connected with the Plant Rubber & Asbestos Works since 1931, when he entered their employ as Sales Manager. He was made General Manager in 1937.

Born at Oakland, California, on January 11, 1890, his principal business connection prior to his coming with the Plant Rubber &

Asbestos Works was with the old Diamond Rubber Company of Akron, Ohio, continuing with this company for a number of years before, during and after Diamond was consolidated with the B. F. Goodrich Company.

The Plant Rubber & Asbestos Works manufacture 85% Magnesite Pipe and other forms of insulation. They also make the most extensive and complete line of high-grade Mechanical Packings on the Pacific Coast.

Founded in San Francisco in 1898, Plant has enjoyed steady growth, and now has sales offices in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Oakland, and Wilmington, Calif., with factories at Redwood City, San Francisco and Los Angeles, and distributors in the principal cities of the Middle West and East, as well as thruout the Pacific Coast.

Mr. Chase is a life member of the Orinda Country Club, Orinda, Calif., playing a little "in and out" golf as diversion.

We know that our readers join us in extending to Mr. Chase congratulations and best wishes on his new position of responsibility.

## CONTRACTORS AND DISTRIBUTORS PAGE

### Ideas For Your Advertising

It is said that last year's per-capita new home cost was \$128.81, or 11.34% lower than the average in 1930.

It is up to the supplier (as well as the manufacturer) of building materials, to tell the public the fact, that is not yet generally known or realized, that in most sections of the United States real estate dollars today buy more space and quality, in both new and modernized homes than they did in the "normal" building year of 1930, because land, labor, materials, financing and selling costs generally are lower than they were eight years ago.

Stressing of this fact by letter, by newspaper advertising and in every other way which occurs to you, will help tremendously to increase building activity and, as a natural sequence, sales of building materials, such as insulation, asbestos-cement sidings and roofings, other asbestos roofings, wallboards, etc.

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*Fire Prevention Week* will be observed the second week in October—that is October 9 to 15.

This is a fine time to stress the use of asbestos materials—particularly asbestos-cement shingles for roofing, and the various types of asbestos-cement siding materials.

Wallboards, especially in places where fire is likely to occur (such as dry-cleaning establishments) or a sheet here and there for use back of stoves, or innumerable other places, can also often be sold in conjunction with orders for insulation or other materials. It's a good plan to keep your eyes open for small sales of this sort which total up to quite a nice sum in the course of a year.

One of the points often brought out in Fire Prevention propaganda is the clearing up of trash in basements, and with this lead it is only a short step to the suggestion that the basement be lined with wallboard so that it may be used as a recreation room, or for other more lucrative purposes.

The fire prevention idea can be stressed in your advertising also and if your home town is forwarding the Fire Prevention movement, there can be a definite tie-up between your advertising and the Fire Prevention data published by your town's newspaper.

## "ASBESTOS"

### **Building**

The building industry paced by residential construction continued in July to compare more favorably with past records than do the other heavy-goods industries. According to compilations of the F. W. Dodge Corporation, the valuation of all residential contracts awarded for July 1938 was \$87,978,000, which is \$6,932,000 ahead of July of last year.

The improvement in July residential construction was sufficient to bring the total seven months' figures to a point just 18 per cent behind the first seven months of 1937. It is interesting to observe that the residential record during this seven month period, while behind last year, is 20 per cent ahead of 1936. A review of the detailed residential figures for July shows that the entire gain is in one and two-family houses, which augers well for the near term future because, as yet, relatively few of the large low-rental projects and public housing projects have progressed to the work stage and they are therefore yet to be included in the Dodge statistics.

Contracts awarded for non-residential building in July show a slightly more than seasonal decline of 11 per cent from June and continue to run behind the corresponding month of last year.

Heavy engineering construction, comprising public works and utilities, has not yet begun to show the effects of the Federal spending program. The July record is down 5 per cent from last month and 22 per cent below July of last year.

The value of all contracts awarded, building and heavy engineering combined, for July, aggregate \$239,799,000, which is only four and one-half per cent below June, but 25 per cent behind July of 1937, which was the highest month in the year. This peculiar phenomenon in 1937 was due primarily to the letting of contracts for better than \$130,000,000 of work for public ownership. The seven months accumulative of \$1,534,071,000, while 15 per cent below the same period in 1937, is substantially ahead of any other year since 1931.

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"Tie-up for Profit" is the title of an article in the August 1938 issue of the American Roofer, which will be of interest to the Insulation Contractor. The American Roofer is published at 425 Fourth Avenue, New York City, in case you cannot find it in your public library or elsewhere, and the single copy price is 25c. The article suggests that insulation and air conditioning contractors get together and talk practical cooperation.

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No fisherman who tells the truth about his catches can make his story very interesting.

# "ASBESTOS"



## Africa (Rhodesia)

(Statistics published by Rhodesia Chamber of Mines)

|                                | June 1938           |                |    |    |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|----|----|
|                                | Tons<br>(2000 lbs.) | Value<br>£ s d |    |    |
| <i>Bulawayo District</i>       |                     |                |    |    |
| Nil Desperandum (Afr. Asb.     |                     |                |    |    |
| Mng. Co. Ltd.) .....           | 787.85              | 10,147         | 0  | 7  |
| Pangani (Pangani Tributors) .. | 26.00               | 161            | 2  | 11 |
| Shabanie (Rho. & Gen. Asb.     |                     |                |    |    |
| Corp. Ltd.) .....              | 3,242.15            | 60,617         | 18 | 4  |
| <i>Victoria District</i>       |                     |                |    |    |
| D. S. O. (Mashaba Rho. Asb.    |                     |                |    |    |
| Co. Ltd.) .....                | 12.00               | 80             | 3  | 0  |
| Gath's & King (Rho. & Gen.     |                     |                |    |    |
| Asb. Corp. Ltd.) .....         | 813.07              | 14,425         | 6  | 8  |
|                                | 4,881.07            | 85,431         | 11 | 6  |
| June 1937 .....                | 4,748.53            | 69,828         | 17 | 11 |

## Africa (Union of South)

(Statistics published by Dept. of Mines & Industries of U. of S. A.)

|                  | June 1937        | June 1938        |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                  | Tons (2000 lbs.) | Tons (2000 lbs.) |
| <i>Transvaal</i> |                  |                  |
| Amosite .....    | 464.40           | 952.00           |
| Blue .....       | 8.80             | 138.00           |
| Chrysotile ..... | 1,359.99         | 155.00           |
| <i>Cape</i>      |                  |                  |
| Blue .....       | 318.14           | 539.00           |
|                  | 2,151.33         | 1,784.00         |

## Canada

(Statistics published by Bureau of Mines, Province of Quebec)

|                            |                         |                      |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Production June 1938 ..... | 25,219 tons (2000 lbs.) |                      |
| Production June 1937 ..... | 35,341 tons (2000 lbs.) |                      |
|                            | 2nd Quarter             | 2nd Quarter          |
|                            | Ending June 30, 1938    | Ending June 30, 1937 |
| Crudes .....               | 675                     | 975                  |
| Fibre .....                | 47,362                  | 57,613               |
| Shorts .....               | 32,830                  | 56,657               |
|                            | 80,867                  | 115,245              |

# "ASBESTOS"



## IMPORTS AND EXPORTS



### Imports into U. S. A.

(Figures published by U. S. Dept. of Commerce)

#### Unmanufactured Asbestos Goods:

|                                 | June 1937<br>Tons (2240 lbs.) | June 1938<br>Tons (2240 lbs.) |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Africa (Br. S.) .....           | 751                           | 193                           |
| Canada .....                    | 20,203                        | 9,432                         |
| Cyprus .....                    | 765                           | .....                         |
| Finland .....                   | 20                            | .....                         |
| Italy .....                     | 149                           | 97                            |
| U. S. S. R. (Russia) .....      | 1,725                         | 501                           |
| United Kingdom .....            | 27                            | .....                         |
|                                 | <hr/> 23,640                  | <hr/> 10,223                  |
| Value .....                     | \$886,002                     | \$366,638                     |
| <i>Tabulation by Crudes:</i>    |                               |                               |
| Crude (Africa, Br. S.) .....    | 751                           | 193                           |
| Crude (Canada) .....            | 269                           | 138                           |
| Crude (Italy) .....             | 3                             | .....                         |
| Crude (United Kingdom) .....    | 27                            | .....                         |
| Milled Fibre (Canada) .....     | 5,787                         | 2,141                         |
| Milled Fibre (U. S. S. R.) .... | 1,710                         | 501                           |
| Lower Grades (Canada) ....      | 14,147                        | 7,153                         |
| Lower Grades (Cyprus) .....     | 765                           | .....                         |
| Lower Grades (Finland) .....    | 20                            | .....                         |
| Lower Grades (Italy) .....      | 146                           | 97                            |
| Lower Grades (U. S. S. R.) .... | 15                            | .....                         |
|                                 | <hr/> 23,640                  | <hr/> 10,223                  |

#### Mfd. Asbestos Goods:

|   | June 1937<br>Pounds | June 1938<br>Pounds |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| Austria (Packing) .....                 | 290                 | .....               |
| Belgium (Shingles) .....                | 186,642             | 98,296              |
| Canada (Pipe & Boiler Covg.) .....      | .....               | 2,339               |
| France (Woven Fabrics) ....             | .....               | 4                   |
| Germany (Packing) .....                 | .....               | 2,032               |
| Italy (Packing) .....                   | 4,844               | .....               |
| United Kingdom (Yarn) .....             | 3,393               | 1,701               |
| United Kingdom (Packing) ..             | 3,848               | 1,763               |
| United Kingdom (Woven<br>Fabrics) ..... | 1,356               | 1,143               |
|   | <hr/> 200,373       | <hr/> 107,278       |
| Value .....                             | \$7,639             | \$5,257             |

# "ASBESTOS"

## Exports from U. S. A.

Exports of Unmanufactured Asbestos for the month of June 1938 were 433 tons, valued at \$33,217; compared with 247 tons, valued at \$24,001 in June 1937.

## Exports of Manufactured Asbestos Goods:

|                            | June 1937 |          | June 1938 |          |
|----------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|
|                            | Quantity  | Value    | Quantity  | Value    |
| Paper, Mlbd. & Rlbd. lbs.  | 140,891   | \$16,448 | 65,930    | \$ 7,146 |
| Pipe Covg. & Cement lbs.   | 174,915   | 11,535   | 196,037   | 10,582   |
| Textiles & Yarn lbs.       | 18,704    | 4,500    | 37,032    | 9,099    |
| Packing lbs.               | 114,052   | 62,103   | 75,975    | 46,323   |
| Brake Lining—              |           |          |           |          |
| Molded & Semi-molded       |           | 75,321   |           | 53,513   |
| Not Molded lin. ft.        | 195,940   | 26,061   | 103,776   | 16,603   |
| Clutch Facings —           |           |          |           |          |
| Molded & Semi-molded units | 29,464    | 11,118   | 20,257    | 6,440    |
| Woven units                | 15,635    | 2,950    | 20,437    | 4,671    |
| Magnesia & Mfrs. of lbs.   | 98,599    | 8,598    | 268,789   | 24,816   |
| Asbestos Roofing sqs.      | 2,986     | 20,884   | 2,881     | 14,669   |
| Other Manufactures lbs.    | 274,586   | 30,316   | 275,802   | 19,886   |

In our August 1938 number this tabulation omitted the figures covering exports of "Magnesia & Mfrs. of" for May 1938, as they were not available at that time. Note, therefore that 200,711 lbs. of "Magnesia and Mfrs. of" were exported during May 1938, the value being \$17,139.

## Imports and Exports by United Kingdom:

### Imports of Raw Material.

|                                 | June 1937   |         | June 1938   |          |
|---------------------------------|-------------|---------|-------------|----------|
|                                 | Tons        | Value   | Value       | Value    |
|                                 | (2000 lbs.) |         | (2000 lbs.) |          |
| From Africa (Rhodesia) .....    | 1,551       | £34,801 | 1,313       | £42,369  |
| From Africa (U. of South) ..... | 1,075       | 14,709  | 1,181       | 30,243   |
| From Africa (Kenya) .....       | 1           | 30      |             |          |
| From Australia .....            |             |         | 64          | 3,018    |
| From Canada .....               | 1,887       | 20,004  | 1,985       | 30,300   |
| From Cyprus .....               | 45          | 250     | 152         | 2,286    |
| From Finland .....              |             |         | 2           | 16       |
| From Italy .....                | 3           | 175     |             |          |
| From Netherlands .....          | 120         | 5,315   |             |          |
| From U. S. S. R. (Russia) ..... |             |         | 170         | 3,687    |
|                                 | 4,682       | £75,284 | 4,867       | £111,924 |

### Imports of Asbestos Manufactures:

|                 |                        |         |
|-----------------|------------------------|---------|
| June 1938 ..... | 47,810 Cwts. valued at | £16,113 |
| June 1937 ..... | 46,961 Cwts. valued at | £17,870 |

# "ASBESTOS"

## Imports and Exports by United Kingdom (Cont'd)

### Exports of Asbestos Manufactures:

|                               | June 1937 |          | June 1938 |          |
|-------------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|
|                               | Cwts.     | Value    | Cwts.     | Value    |
| To Eire (Irish Free State) .. | 3,648     | £ 3,529  | 1,696     | £ 3,149  |
| To British India .....        | 3,706     | 8,906    | 6,526     | 8,623    |
| To Australia .....            | 2,297     | 7,328    | 2,184     | 10,603   |
| To Other British Countries    | 18,338    | 30,721   | 31,659    | 34,120   |
| To Netherlands .....          | 1,219     | 5,555    | 1,283     | 6,683    |
| To Belgium .....              | 836       | 5,284    | 436       | 2,556    |
| To France .....               | 786       | 3,655    | 117       | 1,461    |
| To Italy .....                | 323       | 3,732    | 220       | 3,796    |
| To Other Foreign Countries    | 16,055    | 41,076   | 16,389    | 39,455   |
|                               | 47,208    | £109,786 | 60,510    | £110,446 |

### Exports of Raw Asbestos from Canada

(Figures by Dominion Bureau of Statistics)

|                       | June 1937   |           | June 1938   |             |
|-----------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
|                       | Tons        | Value     | Tons        | Value       |
|                       | (2000 lbs.) |           | (2000 lbs.) |             |
| United Kingdom .....  | 1,478       | \$ 91,740 | 1,975       | \$ 120,669  |
| United States .....   | 6,599       | 368,490   | 2,871       | 177,239     |
| Australia .....       | 141         | 6,935     | 1,037       | 67,853      |
| New Zealand .....     | .....       | .....     | 20          | 1,320       |
| British India .....   | 35          | 1,750     | .....       | .....       |
| Belgium .....         | 2,403       | 142,204   | 2,793       | 161,722     |
| Czecho-Slovakia ..... | .....       | .....     | 607         | 43,094      |
| Denmark .....         | .....       | .....     | 30          | 3,900       |
| France .....          | 1,490       | 103,106   | 2,880       | 180,567     |
| Germany .....         | 1,609       | 120,697   | 1,252       | 129,701     |
| Italy .....           | 123         | 12,294    | 680         | 40,929      |
| Japan .....           | 3,253       | 126,284   | 1,792       | 83,561      |
| Netherlands .....     | 74          | 2,200     | 49          | 1,980       |
| Sweden .....          | .....       | .....     | 320         | 21,262      |
|                       | 17,205      | \$975,700 | 16,306      | \$1,033,797 |

### Sand and Waste

|                       |        |         |       |         |
|-----------------------|--------|---------|-------|---------|
| United Kingdom .....  | 535    | 9,315   | 525   | 9,923   |
| United States .....   | 15,330 | 262,851 | 9,239 | 171,375 |
| Australia .....       | .....  | .....   | 20    | 480     |
| Argentina .....       | .....  | .....   | 15    | 195     |
| Brazil .....          | 20     | 220     | 5     | 65      |
| Belgium .....         | 405    | 7,182   | ..... | .....   |
| Czecho-Slovakia ..... | .....  | .....   | 38    | 704     |
| France .....          | .....  | .....   | 225   | 3,960   |
| Germany .....         | 168    | 3,322   | 156   | 3,756   |

# "ASBESTOS"

## Sand and Waste (Contd.)—

|                   |        |             |        |             |
|-------------------|--------|-------------|--------|-------------|
| Japan .....       | 5      | 110         | 6      | 156         |
| Poland .....      | 63     | 1,386       |        |             |
| Sweden .....      |        |             | 5      | 94          |
|                   | 16,526 | \$ 284,386  | 10,234 | \$ 190,708  |
| Grand Total ..... | 33,731 | \$1,260,086 | 26,540 | \$1,224,505 |

## Exports of Raw Asbestos from South Africa

|                                   | May 1937    |         | May 1938    |         |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|---------|-------------|---------|
|                                   | Tons        | Value   | Tons        | Value   |
|                                   | (2000 lbs.) |         | (2000 lbs.) |         |
| To Argentine .....                |             |         | 20          | £ 513   |
| To Australia .....                | 169         | £ 2,251 | 99          | 862     |
| To Belgium .....                  | 35          | 379     |             |         |
| To France .....                   | 50          | 1,160   | 46          | 1,437   |
| To Germany .....                  | 89          | 2,267   | 68          | 1,904   |
| To Italy .....                    | 147         | 4,212   |             |         |
| To India .....                    | 43          | 261     | 100         | 725     |
| To Japan .....                    | 333         | 4,160   | 263         | 5,313   |
| To Netherlands .....              | 11          | 218     | 18          | 151     |
| To Sweden .....                   |             |         | 6           | 129     |
| To United Kingdom .....           | 1,293       | 14,614  | 1,126       | 25,513  |
| To United States of America ..... | 70          | 1,482   | 264         | 6,101   |
|                                   | 2,240       | £31,004 | 2,010       | £42,648 |

## ASBESTOS STOCK QUOTATIONS

(These figures are compiled from the Commercial and Financial Chronicle. No guarantee made as to their correctness.)

|                                  | August 1938 |      |      |      |
|----------------------------------|-------------|------|------|------|
|                                  | Par         | Low  | High | Last |
| Asbestos Corp. (Com.) .....      | np          | 77½  | 91½  | 89¾  |
| Celotex (Com.) .....             | np          | 20   | 25½  | 23   |
| Celotex (Pfd.) .....             | 100         | 65   | 70   | 66¾  |
| Certainteed (Com.) .....         | 1           | 8¼   | 10¾  | 10¼  |
| Certainteed (Pfd.) .....         | 100         | 33¼  | 41½  | 40¼  |
| Flintkote (Com.) .....           | np          | 19¾  | 24½  | 23¾  |
| Johns-Manville (Com.) .....      | np          | 89   | 98¾  | 96½  |
| Johns-Manville (Pfd.) .....      | 100         | 126¼ | 129½ | 126¼ |
| Raybestos-Manhattan (Com.) ..... | np          | 19¾  | 23   | 20½  |
| Ruberoid (Com.) .....            | np          | 24½  | 29½  | 27½  |
| Thermoid (Com.) .....            | 1           | 4¼   | 5¼   | 4¾   |
| Thermoid (Pfd.) .....            | 10          | 10   | 25   | 20¼  |
| U. S. Gypsum (Com.) .....        | 20          | 85¼  | 97½  | 97   |
| U. S. Gypsum (Pfd.) .....        | 100         | 163½ | 170  | 168  |

## "CONDITIONING" CUSTOMERS

By John T. Bartlett

The example of Russia, Germany and Italy, where hundreds of millions of people enthusiastically follow convictions which, to Americans, are unthinkable, has made us self-conscious of the psychological process known as "conditioning". While European newspapers condition their peoples in deplorable beliefs, Uncle Sam, ever since 1776, has done a good job of conditioning his people, too—starting in earliest childhood, inculcating beliefs of democracy and faith in America.

It is mighty hard to find a boy or girl of 16 who doesn't believe that the United States is the greatest country in the world—and that goes for adults, too, if we eliminate certain "isms". This circumstance is due to the conditioning process which is carried out in school, at home, and in our literature.

All this means much to salesmen. How do your customers feel about your house? If you do a good job of conditioning, they will think it is the best house, bar none, in the entire industry!

You will condition your customers if, in every contact, your references to your house always are respectful and enthusiastic, and as you "talk up" your house at every opportunity. In any dispute, you handle yourself with dignity and take the blame personally, rather than let the house suffer for it.

Your own appearance, manner, intelligence, and ethics, of course, will affect the customer's rating of your house. Be a first class salesman. The customer reasons "High grade salesmen represent high grade houses".

Skillful salesmen condition their customers to give them considerate interviews. The salesman expects a good interview. If the customer attempts to give him the bum's rush, he dignifiedly suggests an interview at a more convenient time. And getting a good interview, he does such a good job of selling that the customer falls into the habit of courtesy.

## NEWS OF THE INDUSTRY

### BIRTHDAYS.

- Furber Marshall, President, Marshall Asbestos Co., Troy, N. Y., September 16.  
Harold B. Buse, President, Insulations, Inc., Cambridge, Mass., September 20.  
J. W. Ledebor, Second Vice President, Keasbey & Mattison Co., Ambler, Pa., September 20.  
G. Koerner, President, Insulating & Materials Co., St. Louis, Mo., September 24.  
M. William Bray, Secretary, Mohawk Asbestos Shingle Co., Inc., Oneida, N. Y., September 25.  
C. Stanley Morgan, Detroit, Mich., September 25.  
R. H. Temple, Treasurer, Thermoid Rubber Co., Trenton, N. J., September 25.  
E. R. Teubner, Jr., President & Treasurer, Philadelphia Asbestos Co., Philadelphia, Pa., September 26.  
Fred Surridge, Manager St. Louis Office of Grant Wilson, Inc., September 26.  
M. J. O'Malley, President, Standard Asbestos Mfg. Co., Chicago, Ill., September 26.  
J. M. High, Ruberoid Co., New York City, N. Y., September 28.  
O. P. Hennig, President, Hennig Asbestos & Packing Co., Chicago, Ill., October 3.  
A. M. Robinson, Secretary, Johnson's Company, Thetford Mines, P. Q., Canada, October 8.  
John H. Victor, President, Victor Mfg. & Gasket Co., Chicago, Ill., October 9.  
Russell E. Crawford, Secretary, Ehret Magnesia Mfg. Co., Valley Forge, Pa., October 9.  
C. P. Brockway, Vice President, World Bestos Co., Paterson, N. J., October 12.  
R. Tomlinson, President, Pacific Asbestos Sup. Co., Portland, Ore., October 12.  
W. W. F. Shepherd, Chairman of the Board, Keasbey & Mattison Co., Ambler, Pa., October 13.  
W. M. Paxton, Raybestos Division, Bridgeport, Conn., October 14.  
Thomas D. Stone, President, Stone Industrial Equipment Co., Springfield, Mass., October 14.  
R. H. Shainwald, President, Plant Rubber & Asbestos Works, San Francisco, Cal., October 15.  
R. J. Evans, Chairman of the Board, Asbestos Manufacturing Co., Huntington, Ind., October 15.

Congratulations and best wishes are extended to all these gentlemen.

## "ASBESTOS"

**JOHN T. CORRANCE**, prominent Scottish Asbestos and Rubber manufacturer, died recently at Newton Mearns, Renfrewshire, Scotland, at the early age of 45. Mr. Corrance was a director of Corrance and Yull, Bridgeton, Glasgow.

**THE KEASBEY & MATTISON COMPANY** has appointed J. Walter Lauer, Jr., as Merchandising Manager of its Asbestos-Cement Products Sales Division. Mr. Lauer has been associated with the Keasbey & Mattison Company for the past six years as a departmental manager and special field representative. He will be responsible for execution of merchandising policies governing K. & M.'s well-known "Century" line of asbestos-cement products, including roofing and siding shingles, wall finishes and mineral wool home insulations.

**TURNERS ASBESTOS CEMENT CO.** The new £200,000 factory of Turners Asbestos Cement Co. (controlled by Turner & Newall, Ltd.) at Dalmuir, near Glasgow, Scotland, began production late in August. The site extends to almost 20 acres in the former Beardmore Dalmuir shipyard. This factory is the first asbestos-cement establishment to operate in Scotland. Several hundred workers will be employed for full production.

**THE RUBEROID CO.** Directors of The Ruberoid Co. took no action at their meeting on August 16th with respect to the payment of a dividend in the third quarter of 1938. While the company's sales in recent months have reflected the continuing upward trend of building activity, particularly in residential construction, the directors decided to defer dividend action until a clearer picture could be had of sales volume and profits for the year as a whole.

**RAYBESTOS-MANHATTAN'S** operations in the second quarter of the year showed material improvement. The net loss was \$43,101.21 after all costs and expenses including \$184,306.22 for depreciation, and \$132,005.10 for taxes, but before \$87,801.72 for full settlement and expenses of litigation long pending and aggregating over \$3,000,000. The net loss in the first quarter was \$171,448.37, after \$188,572.32 for depreciation and \$126,438.74 for taxes.

The Directors of Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc., at their meeting on August 17th declared a dividend of fifteen cents per share, payable September 15, 1938 to stockholders of record at the close of business August 31, 1938.

**AUSTRALIAN BLUE ASBESTOS MINES N. L.**, is the name of a new asbestos mining venture recently floated in Perth, Western Australia, with a nominal capital of £50,000 (\$250,000) divided into 200,000 five shilling shares. It has been formed with the object of acquiring areas subject to options located at Wittenoom Gorge in the Hammersley Ranges, Western Australia, which are

## • BLUE ASBESTOS

The Cape Asbestos Company, Ltd., is the world's largest supplier of acid-resistant blue crocidolite asbestos, and the only manufacturer operating its own mines. Inquiries solicited on:

|                       |        |        |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|
| MILLBOARD             |        | YARNS  |
| ROVINGS               | POWDER | CLOTHS |
| PROCESSED FIBRES      |        |        |
| Unexcelled for use in |        |        |
| ASBESTOS CEMENT PIPES |        |        |

## • AMOSITE ASBESTOS

This fibre owing to its great length and bulk is unrivalled for use as an insulating medium in:

*Asbestos mattress filler*  
*85% Magnesia insulation*

**The CAPE ASBESTOS CO.** Limited

Morley House, 28-30 Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C.1.

FACTORY, BARKING, ESSEX

**United States Sales Agent:**

**ARNOLD W. KOEHLER**

**415 LEXINGTON AVE.**

**NEW YORK CITY**

**TELEPHONE—MURRAY HILL 2-8287**

## "ASBESTOS"

said to contain a good grade of blue asbestos in substantial quantities.

The directors are H. J. Urquhart, N. S. Stuckey and W. H. J. Samson, Mr. Urquhart being, we are told, a prominent mining engineer in Western Australia.

**L. B. PAGE** of Pittsburgh, Pa., has been selling asbestos products for twenty-two years, and has subscribed to "ASBESTOS" for 14 years, just renewed his subscription for the 15th year.

**C. R. LEWIS**, vice president in charge of sales, the Johns-Manville Corporation (Cleveland District) has been appointed to the Manufacturers' Committee of the Cleveland Plan, a civic movement dealing with industrial activity in the Cleveland area.

Prominently identified with many civic undertakings, Mr. Lewis represents his industry in the committee.

**MONTANA ASBESTOS COMPANY INC.**, of Bozeman, Montana, are offering various grades of asbestos for sale. Samples of the mill-run and mine-run asbestos from their small "pilot plant" have been received by "ASBESTOS" and we also have analyses of this material made by various well known laboratories.

The material is of the amphibole variety and is offered principally for home insulation under trade name of "Monasco".

## PATENTS

This information obtained from the Official Patent Gazette, published weekly by the U. S. Patent Office, Washington, D. C.

**Acid Resisting Laminated Product.** No. 2,128,097. Granted on August 23 to Gerald H. Mains, Murrysville, Pa., assignor to Westinghouse Electric & Mfg. Co., East Pittsburgh, Pa. Application March 15, 1934. Serial No. 715,611.

An acid resistant spinning bucket comprising a plurality of layers of a mixture of an organic fibrous material and an acid resistant asbestos woven into a fabric, the organic fibrous material being present only in sufficient quantities to enable the weaving of the mixture and a reacted acid resistant binder impregnating the layers of the fabric and binding it into a spinning bucket of predetermined shape, the asbestos being present in quantity sufficient to give the desired strength to the spinning bucket when the organic fibrous materials have been destroyed by an acid.

## AUTOMOBILE PRODUCTION

Automobile production during July 1938 totalled 150,444 (141,437 in the United States and 9,007 in Canada).

The July 1937 figure was 456,909 (438,968 in the United States and 17,941 in Canada).

The July 1938 production showed also a drop from the June figures of 189,399 (174,667 in the U. S. A. and 14,732 in Canada).

Total production for the first seven months of 1938 was 1,456,476 (1,345,311 in the United States and 111,165 in Canada).

## THIS and THAT

**Suggestion.** An oil refinery finds it handy to keep a pair of asbestos gloves hanging near its fuse box, so that the man changing the fuses is reminded to change his oily gloves for asbestos ones and so eliminate a possible cause of fire thru the accidental spreading of an oil film in the fuse box. Probably a little thought might suggest a number of places in industrial plants where asbestos gloves would be handy and useful if kept hanging in plain sight of the men supposed to use them. The refinery mentioned mounted near the fuse box an ordinary spring clothespin which held the gloves.

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**Triple Sealed.** Announcement has been made by The Celotex Corporation of a complete line of Celotex Triple Sealed Asphalt Shingles, Siding and Roll Roofing, to be manufactured by The Celotex Corporation in seven plants strategically located thruout the United States. Dr. Elbert C. Lathrop, Vice President of The Celotex Corporation, has been placed in charge of the chemical and engineering manufacturing development and control of Celotex roofing.

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**Near Championship.** Mrs. R. H. Chase of San Francisco recently reached the finals in the East Bay Championship, a feature women's golf event on the Pacific Coast. She defeated several skilful players and congratulations are due her on her excellent game, played under difficult conditions and after only four years of golf experience.

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**A Rose.** "ASBESTOS" to us is a never failing source of valuable informative interest and we wish you and your magazine every success in the future. So writes one of our English subscribers. Very much appreciated.

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**Antigorite,** is a variety of serpentine, in fact no hard and fast line can be drawn between antigorite and chrysotile altho they can be distinguished by optical methods. We have been asked for a source of supply of antigorite. Can any of our friends in the asbestos mining industry tell us whether and where we can obtain specimens of this kind of serpentine?

---

Persistent people begin their success where others end in failure.

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When you have to cope with the control of Btu's, remember that Ruberoid-Watson is in a position to supply a complete line of Asbestos Pipe Coverings — for low, medium or high temperature work.

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practically all the requirements for an ideal High Temperature insulation. Made from a base of specially selected diatomaceous earths, it is relatively light in weight, structurally strong, easily handled and applied, and its insulating efficiency lasts indefinitely.

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## DO YOU KNOW--

That in 1908, the first year production of asbestos was reported from Rhodesia, the total production was 55 tons; in 1938 it was over 57,000 tons . . . .

That The Ruberoid Co. is 52 years old, its first factory, with only 15 employees, having been opened in an old sawmill at South Bound Brook, N. J., in 1886 . . . .

That the first products made by Philip Carey were "Asbestos Molded" Pipe Covering and "Carey Flexible Cement Roofing" . . . .

That the number of stockholders of Johns Manville is approximately 6500 . . . .

?

*(Send us interesting facts concerning your company for use on this page).*

